

## 11.18.08 STEDC MEETING

### Members Present:

Shawn Real Bird- Chairman (Crow)  
Joe Durglo- Vice Chairman (Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribe)  
Emorie Davis-Bird- member (Blackfeet)  
Richard Sangrey- member (Chippewa Cree)  
L. 'Bum' Stiffarm- member (Ft. Belknap)  
Jennifer Perez Cole- member (Office of Indian Affairs)  
Andy Poole- member (Department of Commerce)

### Members Absent:

Rodney Miller (Fort Peck)- excused  
Dr. Russell Boham (Little Shell)- excused  
Lesa Evers (Governor's Office of Economic Development)- excused

### Staff Present:

Heather Sobrepena-George, ICED/STEDC  
Lorae Williams, STEDC, temp.

### Public:

Quinn Ness (Department of Commerce/ Business Resources Division- Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund, Certified Regional Development Corporations, Micro Business Development Corporations)  
Gary Morehouse (Department of Commerce/ Business Resources Division- Assistant Division Administrator)  
Carolyn Jones (Department of Commerce/ Business Resources Division- Community Development Block Grant Economic Development Program Specialist)

## MEETING CALLED TO ORDER by Shawn Real Bird, Chairman (9:15 am)

## OPENING PRAYER by Richard Sangrey

## PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

### **Clarification on STEDC Staff:**

(L. 'Bum' Stiffarm) Can I get clarification on the status of Lorae Williams and the STEDC Administrative Assistant Position?

(Heather Sobrepena-George) Lorae is a temporary contract worker from a temporary employee agency who is available for 480 total hours. The plan is to reclassify the position to perform higher functioning duties and to accurately reflect what the position is already doing. Once the position is reclassified from an Administrative Assistant to an Administrative Specialist, then a vacancy announcement will be posted and the position will be open to competitive application. The process should have happened within the time that Lorae was contracted for, but due to workload, acclimation and other factors, the reclassification and subsequent advertising has taken longer than expected. Heather is almost done with the paperwork to submit for a classification review and should have it submitted by the end of the week. However, Lorae is to the end of the number of hours that she can work under contract with the Commission and so this will

be the last week that she is with the Commission.

(Jennifer Perez Cole) Concern over the hiring delay. The position has been and will be vacant for a period of time and needs to be filled as quickly as possible. Jennifer also requested feedback from the Commission on a change in location of the STEDC position. Would the Commission prefer the STEDC staff to be located at the Capitol or the Department of Commerce? She stated that economic development with the tribes is the Governor's main priority. This Commission is unique because of the government-to-government nature between Montana and tribes.

(Emmie Davis-Bird) Why Heather Sobrepena-George wasn't located at the Capitol anymore and if she wanted the [STEDC] position at the Capitol?

(Heather Sobrepena-George) Once she was hired into the Indian Country Economic Development (ICED) Program Manager position with Commerce, she moved to the position's location in Commerce. She also stated that from her personal perspective as the former STEDC Administrative Assistant, the STEDC staff wasn't able to fully serve the Commission because of the physical location of the position in the reception area of the Office of Indian Affairs. Heather apologized to the Commission for the amount of time that it was taking to get the position reclassified, advertised and hired. It has been a process that has required learning while doing.

(Richard Sangrey) Is the overall supervision of the STEDC Administrative Assistant under Commerce?

(Andy Poole) When Heather was the STEDC Administrative Assistant, she reported to him in his capacity as the Business Resources Division Administrator and also as the Deputy Director of the Department of Commerce. When Heather was hired for the Administrative Assistant position with STEDC, she was hired as a Commerce employee since the STEDC is administratively attached to the Montana Department of Commerce. He also stated that Heather still works for the Business Resources Division, just in a different position, as the ICED Program Manager. Andy would like to have Heather supervise the STEDC position because the work of the two positions (ICED and STEDC) is collaborative. Commerce has most of the funding resources that would be available to the tribes for economic development. For overall efforts to be cohesive and to get the major priorities of the Commission accomplished, it would be nice to have the two positions work closely together. Andy clarified that if there were a vote taken on the location of the position, he would have to abstain from voting.

(Richard Sangrey) Let's put the voting of the STEDC location on the next meeting's agenda.

(Shawn Real Bird) The STEDC location should be an agenda item for the next meeting.

(Jennifer Perez Cole) The Legislature starts in January and the Administrative Assistant position needs to get filled so that the staff can help prepare for the Legislature.

(L. 'Bum' Stiffarm) What's the timeframe for advertising and filling the position? Bum requested a conference call to decide on the location of the position prior to the next meeting because the position needs to get filled. Bum asked when the position would be advertised and hired.

(Andy Poole) We'll commit to moving the process along internally as quickly as possible, but he declined setting a hard date since any date he chose would be a guess at best.

(Jennifer Perez Cole) December was not a good month for the Office of Indian Affairs due to a full month's schedule of events. Jennifer requested the conference call happen within the next week, before Thanksgiving.

(Shawn Real Bird) stated that all the large land-based tribes were not available the second week in December. Shawn requested that Heather send an email asking when all Commission members can get on a conference call in the next two weeks.

(Lorae Williams) Thanks to the Commission for the time that she was allowed to work for the Commission. She offered to stay on as a volunteer if possible.

(L. 'Bum' Stiffarm) Thanks, Lorae for her time and humor and asked if there wasn't a way to keep Lorae on temporarily until the position was hired.

(Andy Poole) We'll see if the position can be filled temporarily.

### **Governor's Budget:**

L. 'Bum' Stiffarm requested a copy of the Governor's Budget.

(Heather Sobrepena-George) The Commerce portion of the Governor's Budget was included in the packets but she would get copies of the Governor's Budget to the Commission.

### **Indian Equity Fund Update Request:**

L. 'Bum' Stiffarm asked for a report from Philip Belangie on the Indian Equity Fund program.

(Heather Sobrepena-George) The application period for the 2009 Indian Equity Fund ran from October 1 to December 1, 2008 and that Philip had reported approximately 48 applications had been submitted. Heather stated that Philip would most likely be contacting the Commission members for the local review of applications and that he would probably have more information to report for the next meeting.

(Jennifer Perez Cole) Do fellow Commission members think the Indian Equity Fund was adequately advertised in Indian country?

(Emmie Davis Bird) A story on the Indian Equity Fund was on the news and in the local paper for two weeks in Blackfeet. Emmie also stated that she personally solicited in the community for the program.

(Richard Sangrey) There was great feedback from his community and knows that the Indian Equity Fund presentation had 30+ people that Commerce had set up at Rocky Boy.

Other members concurred that they had seen it advertised in their local papers and that their communities were aware of fund.

(Emmie Davis-Bird) If STEDC members are on the local review committee, wouldn't that set up for a conflict of interest if we review and then make a decision?

Members concurred that the only conflict of interest would be if the person reviewing was personally going after the funding. The STEDC members can either participate in or nominate someone to sit on the local review committee. The state review committee makes the ultimate project funding recommendations to the Director of Commerce.

(L. 'Bum' Stiffarm) Does the Indian Equity Fund have the authority to revert money to its program? He would hate for the money to go back to the general fund if each tribe didn't use up their slots.

(Andy Poole) In previous years the money has gone back into the pot so that either someone else from the tribe or from another tribe could apply for the funds.

(Andy Poole) Requests that the Commission clarify in this meeting what should be a policy regarding unused funds in the Indian Equity Fund.

***Emmie Davis Bird made a motion to redistribute remaining Indian Equity Funds left over if a tribe's members have not applied back to the fund to be available to another tribe's next eligible applicant. Seconded by Andy Poole. Unanimous.***

#### **Governor's Cabinet Changes:**

(Richard Sangrey) There have been a couple of cabinet changes in the state. Anna Whiting Sorrell is now the director of DPHHS.

#### **APPROVAL OF 08.27.08 MINUTES**

***Motion made to approve the minutes as written with changes made by L. 'Bum' Stiffarm. Second by Richard Sangrey. Unanimous.***

#### **FISCAL REPORT**

(Heather Sobrepena-George) There is \$496 left in the ICED project budget. Overall, 14 % of the STEDC budget has been spent and we are 1/3 of the way through the fiscal year. Lora Williams' time will be paid for out of other services since it was a contract through a temp agency.

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund**

Quinn Ness is the Section Manager of Big Sky Economic Develop Trust Fund (BSTF), the Micro Business Finance Program and the Certified Regional Development Corporations Program. He can be reached at (406) 841-2758 or [quness@mt.gov](mailto:quness@mt.gov). His Business Resources Division Section also provides administrative support to the Economic Development Advisory Committee. The BSTF program was created in the 2005 Legislature (HB248) and is a trust formed within the permanent Coal Trust. \$30MM was allocated into BSTF, with a portion of coal funds deposited annually. Currently \$4MM in interest earnings can be used to support economic development planning activities in MT. The purpose of the BSTF is in the distributed materials. The program encourages workforce development, including workforce training and job creation. Program awards are split into Category I Funds with 75% of interest earnings available to local governments (including tribal governments). Category II Funds are 25% of the interest earnings and are set aside to support planning activities. Eligible applicants for Category I are local governments, including tribal governments. Eligible businesses through local government are primary sector businesses. Some exceptions for businesses located in high economic distressed areas are at the discretion of grant committee, but must create at least one new job in Montana and must pay at least the average wage of county in which employee is to be principally employed, and must demonstrate that business expansion is financially feasible. The maximum award is \$5,000 per employee and can be increased to \$7,500 in a high poverty area (per the work of Rep. Shannon Augare). The match is \$1:\$1, but it can be reduced if the project is located in a high poverty area. Eligible activities include public infrastructure and facilities, workforce training, loans for fixed assets, interest rate reductions, relocation costs, rental assistance and lease buy-downs. Category II funds are distributed through the Certified Regional Development Corporations (CRDC) of which there are currently 12. The number is limited to 12 by statute (Flathead & Richland counties are not under CRDC, but can apply as a county under statute language. \$25,000 is the ceiling per application, with a minimum application of \$5,000. Statutory match requirement is \$1 applicant for every \$2 BSTF. This match can be waived in high poverty areas. For the last quarterly deadline, there were applications requesting a total of \$450,000 for the available \$200,000 in funding. Eligible Category II activities are Business Plans, Feasibility Studies, Preliminary Architecture Reports, Preliminary Engineering Reports, Economic Impact Studies, Workforce Surveys, and Targeted Industry Analyses.

***Does the match have to be hard or in-kind?*** (Richard Sangrey) **Answer:** For Category II, either hard or in-kind qualify as match. For Category I hard cash match is required per statute.

***Are all tribes covered in CRDC network?*** (Richard Sangrey) **Answer:** From the CRDC perspective, all tribes are covered except Richland & Flathead. A resolution of support from “covered” tribes should be part of CRDC’s qualifying/certifying paperwork. CRDC areas are approved for seven year terms. However, if the 2009 Legislature approves the CRDC’s then they will have to recertify and get new tribal resolutions and support from local communities.

(Andy Poole) The mechanism for BSTF makes it very important that we get to know the CRDC in our areas and that they get to know us so that the projects we put together fully maximized all financial resources. Over time the relationship changes between the CRDC's and tribes. It is sometimes better, sometimes worse. It is up to us as the STEDC, tribes, and CRDC's to get to know each other and maintain a relationship. Part of the solution is to develop better relationships between the tribes and the CRDC.

(Quinn Ness) Clarification: for Category I funds, tribes may utilize a CRDC, but it is not necessary.

***For Category I, what's the difference between funding amounts on the handout? What's the payback percentage on a loan?*** (L. 'Bum' Stiffarm) **Answer:** The Legislature gave the division the option to loan or grant the BSTF dollars. BSTF has primarily chosen to grant the funds rather than loan them. If a tribe received a Category I grant, they could make a choice to loan the funds to individual businesses as long as that language is in an approved application. **Follow-up Answer:** Loan rates are usually at 5%. Terms are determined by what the funding is being used for (equipment or property) and range from 5-7%, for up to 20 year terms. The flexibility really depends on the needs of the applicant. No two applications and approval terms have been the same.

***Please explain in the handout, "applications accepted continuously but reviewed quarterly."*** (Joe Durglo) **Answer:** Application reviews are scheduled in advance per calendar quarter. However, high priority projects can be reviewed as needed as submitted. If an application is near the pre-planned meeting then it would be rolled into the meeting.

***Planning grants submission dates are March, June, December, and September- is only a certain amount awarded each quarter or is it awarded until the program runs out of money?*** (L. 'Bum' Stiffarm) **Answer:** Applications are accepted throughout quarter and reviewed at quarterly meetings. The program has statutory spending authority and monthly interest earnings are accumulated and calculated throughout quarter. The interest earnings available for last quarter's awards were approximately \$200,000. Funds were fully awarded last quarter, but it's not awarded first come first serve until the money runs out, it is at the discretion of the review committee.

***If an application is not funded; do you send it back so they can fix it and resubmit?*** (L. 'Bum' Stiffarm) **Answer:** In some cases there may be missing information in an application. The review committee can notify staff to notify an applicant to resubmit with complete information.

***Why are the state's funding reporting requirements so much more difficult than other funding sources?*** (L. 'Bum' Stiffarm) We've applied for funding sources from the state, and administering a state grant is twice as hard as administering any other kind of grant. It's sometimes more of a hassle than help. The WIRED grant required a 10 page report that was redundant and treated us like we didn't know how to handle money. Fort Belknap administers all sorts of funds from different agencies, and none of them are as bad as some of the state programs. **Answer:** (Gary Morehouse) We agree that the WIRED funding has been difficult. Unfortunately, Commerce is responsible to the feds and to the Department of Labor and Industry. We run our other

in-house programs very different than programs like WIRED. We (Commerce) have been very closely scrutinized with the WIRED program. Unfortunately, the expectations come from the top, so if we're asking for something, it's because we've been asked for it.

(Quinn Ness) It is critically important how we communicate with tribal governments. Typically, we need someone who can facilitate the conversation/feedback and to deliver any experiences that hinder the tribes from applying. If an obstacle isn't in statute, BSTF wants to address it and fix it. We can use Heather to help facilitate that communication, if that makes tribes more comfortable. The Division Administrator, Andy Poole, is not into creating black and white rules, so every funding door possible is open. Except where statute limitations exist, the BSTF committee has flexibility to make decisions that have the greatest benefit.

***One of the problems is that the grants are cost-reimbursement, tribe can't financially do that. Can we work out a mechanism so that we can use the program without front-loading the cost to the tribes?*** (Richard Sangrey) **Answer** (Gary Morehouse) That can be arranged case by case. We just need some documentation to see where the money went. Funds can be advanced on invoice. (Quinn Ness) 5% of award can be utilized for administration of grant, so that may be a possibility to cover some initial expenses. We realize getting started with no money is difficult.

(Richard Sangrey) In administration of tribal government, administration costs are allowed as indirect cost by the feds, but it's not allowed by the state. Primary determination factors when we look at a grant are: 1) the amount of match required; and 2) indirect costs to the tribe.

(Andy Poole) There is a limited overhead rate that each tribe could charge to a grant. I understand how that would create a difficulty. It could be that the state statute is written in conflict with the way tribal government operates, we might need to look at this.

***For the reporting requirements (pg 27), if this is all we are required to submit, that's great! If financials are required, please let us know while we are in the application process.*** (L. 'Bum' Stiffarm) **Answer:** We've tried to streamline the process because we have limited staff also. Please communicate if there are difficulties in the process for the end user (applicant) to Heather and she'll pass it on. **Follow-up Answer:** (Gary Morehouse) Regarding process and rule changes, Andy has mentioned the tribe's dislike of the WIRED program. Just so you all know, Rules Changes passed down to us from the feds are the only changes we've passed on to the tribes. Throughout the short WIRED history, we've been subjected to seven different rule changes. Even in the audit where we should know what's acceptable and what's not, the rules changed in mid-process. The Commerce WIRED staff have had to roll with the punches, just like the tribes. The regulatory environment changes just as soon as we all figure it out or the program ends.

***Theoretically, if the tribe doesn't submit a report to say the, Department of Transportation, does that disallow a tribe from applying to Commerce programs?*** (L. 'Bum' Stiffarm) **Answer:** (Gary Morehouse) If it were another federal program, and they have a disbarment clause then it could be an issue, but it's not that way with the

State's program.

(Andy Poole) The BSTF can be a leverage/complimentary program for the ICED program. The two programs could be applied to for the same project.

### **Community Block Development Economic Development (CDBG-ED) Program**

Carolyn Jones is the Program Specialist for CDBG-ED. Carolyn can be contacted at (406) 841-2735 or [cjones@mt.gov](mailto:cjones@mt.gov). Funding comes from the federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The annual allocation for 2008 is \$6.7 MM. \$2.1MM is for economic development and \$210,000 is available for planning activities. \$4.6M is for the CDBG- Housing and Infrastructure "Big Brother" and that program is run by Gus Byrom. That program is administered by a different division (other than the Business Resources Division) with different rules and regulations. The purpose of the program is to create and retain permanent, year-round jobs for low to moderate income persons. The funds are used when a funding gap exists. Applicants are local governments. Tribal governments would have to be sponsored by a local government- through the city, county, incorporated cities/towns, or consolidated city/county governments. An example is S&K Electronics; a grant was given to the county through Lake County Community Development Corporation, to the Confederated Salish & Kootenai tribal government.

**Are tribes eligible to apply?** (Richard Sangrey) **Answer:** The CDBG funds come as a block grant into the state from HUD and technically tribe's themselves cannot apply, but they can apply through local governments.

**How much is used to administer the program?** (L. 'Bum' Stiffarm) **Answer:** (Gary Morehouse) 2% can be used for administration, 1% for technical assistance and \$100,000 for other services. Roughly administration is close to \$600,000 (close to 10%).

**Ft. Belknap doesn't have any incorporated counties, incorporated cities/towns, or consolidated city/county governments. How is this program relevant to tribes?** (L. 'Bum' Stiffarm) **Answer:** There is an Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) program out of Denver, which has dedicated funding for the tribes to which they can directly apply. Also, populations greater than 50,000 do not qualify through the state CDBG, they also get their own funding through feds. Non-profits are eligible applicants but must apply through local government. Activities include business loans, acquisition, constructions, rehabilitation of commercial properties or individual buildings, working capital and equipment. More information is contained in the handout. The threshold is no more than \$400,000 can be committed each program year to individual project. Up to \$15,000 can be used for planning. A 1:1 hard match must be committed to the project (per federal regulations). 51% benefit must be shown to low-moderate income persons. Terms can be loans and or grants. Generally loans are at a 5% interest rate. The program is open cycle. CDGB-ED receives funds in March and so funding is usually from April to February of the following year. Available funding is \$556,457.

**Have you ever funded a tribal college in the nature of the Flathead Valley Community College?** (L. 'Bum' Stiffarm) **Answer:** Funding the Flathead Community



College was a break from typical program awards. We had to get approval from HUD. One of the caveats was a combination of the low to moderate income data coupled with an agreement with local employers to employ the students. A precedent was set with this approved application.

***Do you go by income levels based on Census?*** (Emmie Davis-Bird) **Answer:** Yes, income information is produced every year by HUD with a baseline set from the 2000 Census. Income limits may be set by county median.

Currently for planning grants, remaining funds are \$115,600. Examples of funded planning grants are in the handouts. 2008 contract examples include the City of Wolf Point (Sherman Inn), Lake County- (S&K Electronics awarded \$75,000 with 55 jobs retained). In 2006, Town of Poplar (Ft. Peck Paleontology Center). In 2005, A&S Diversified (Fort Peck Tech for employee training)

***Can we get a list of funded activities?*** (L. 'Bum' Stiffarm) **Answer:** Carolyn will get a list to Heather, who will distribute to the Commission members.

***Does the BSTF fund infrastructure?*** (Joe Durglo) **Answer:** If it complies with guidelines for low to moderate income, it usually has to be a primary sector business. There could be some exceptions, such as in the medical field, which may be eligible for the BSTF. Workforce training grant could also be a potential source. One thing to keep in mind that is that you can apply to multiple funds within the division as long as the use of funds is utilized for different aspects of the same project.

***Can other grants be used for match?*** (Richard Sangrey) **Answer:** In most cases, yes. Documentation of any other federal or state funds that are participating in a particular project help. **Follow-up Answer:** (Andy Poole) As far as leverage or match, we try to keep it outside of the Department of Commerce. We prefer to count outside (Commerce) resources towards the minimum match. However, the ICED funding is an eligible match for the other programs in the Department of Commerce.

### **Bresnan Communications**

Ted White did not provide staff an update to the Commission regarding the status of the walk out projects at Crow and Northern Cheyenne. The STEDC used leftover funds from FY 2007 to contract with Bresnan for a Tribal Telecommunications Feasibility Study. Two Certified Regional Development Corporations (CRDC) have utilized the funds: Beartooth Resource and Conservation District (BRC&D) on behalf of Crow and Southeastern Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC) on behalf of Northern Cheyenne through the Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund. The initial contract was to provide \$21,000 through Southeastern Montana Development Corporation for Phase I walk outs and presentation of initial findings to the tribes with reports submitted to the CRDC's. The initial contract between SEMDC and Bresnan was extended by one year from December 2007. For this extension, the final report and invoicing is due on December 30, 2008. If the contract conditions are not met, the contract funds revert back into the state general fund, not to the Commission. The total amount obligated was \$21,000, with a 10% set aside to CRDC. SEMDC has requested, but has not been able to get any information from Bresnan about the project progress and have not received any invoices for services provided under the contract. Andy hesitates to extend the

contract again because all the work has already been done. All that's left to do is a report needs to be put together and submitted with invoicing to close out the contract.

***A motion was made by Andy Poole to write a letter to Bresnan Communications strongly encouraging them to submit a final report and invoices with copies to the Certified Regional Development Organizations involved otherwise, the Commission is going to be out the \$21,000 they've committed to the project. Seconded by Bum Stiffarm. Unanimous.***

(Emmie Davis-Bird) The Blackfeet Tribal Council just recently approved a resolution to work with Bresnan Communications after inviting Ted White to visit in July, and then September. Emmie has discussed collaboration with OKI Communications, and Siyeh Corporation but since she has just recently received a resolution from the tribal council, she understands how a delay could occur.

#### **Director Preite Visit**

Montana Department of Commerce Director Preite stopped in to visit at 12:05. He stated that for this next legislature, we've made a strong case for continuing to invest resources in Indian country. He stated that it is evident that Montana is now expending its resources in parts of the state that have been overlooked in the past.

#### **BREAK**

#### **Election of Officers**

During a working lunch, Heather went over the statute (MCA 90-1-131 Composition and Compensation for members of the State Tribal Economic Development Commission) to start the discussion of election of officers as well as other internal management procedures that are not covered in the statute. The Internal Management Procedures were introduced in the February 20, 2008 STEDC meeting, but have never been formally adopted. They were developed with Kelly Casillas, Legal Counsel for the Montana Department of Commerce and they would give the Commission additional structure to elect officers, run meetings, procedure. Requested changes to the presented document were:

- Section D- "Officer and Vice Officer" language to "Chairperson and Vice Chairperson" language
- Section G it was agreed the Chairperson could make motions, second and vote.
- Section L- "Administrative Assistant" language should be changed to "Administrative Specialist"

***A motion to adopt the STEDC Internal Management Procedures with the proposed***

*changes was made by Richard Sangrey. Seconded by Joe Durglo. Unanimous.*

### **Goals & Objectives**

As reported by Heather Sobrepena-George, no changes or updates to the form have been implemented since it was discussed at the 05/11/05 STEDC meeting. After an Administrative Specialist is hired for the Commission, one of the duties will be to complete the matrix for the Goals & Objectives to integrate all of the STEDC statutory obligations, stated goals and accomplishments since the Commission's inception to date.

(L. 'Bum' Stiffarm) Requests that the Commission make the Goals & Objectives report available to the Governor, the Commission and tribal governments once completed.

### **State Tribal Resource Directory**

Heather updated the Commission on the progress of the State-Tribal Resource Directory. A cover letter requesting information from state agencies was drafted and the form was refined. The information was presented to the GAIN council. The council has concern over the project's proposed parameters, timelines, potential costs, and staff resources required for implementation. The council recommended doing preliminary research on existing agency directories and revisiting the proposal of creating a comprehensive directory when the Commission staff position is filled. In the interim, the Montana Department of Commerce (the STEDC attached to agency) has committed to putting together a comprehensive list of Commerce resources for which tribes would be eligible. After staff is hired for the Commission, a comprehensive assessment of other state agency resources as well as refinement of the project's parameters, timelines and potential costs will be revisited.

(Emmie Davis Bird) The project is important. We're doing it so that tribes don't have to hunt down the different funds in different state programs. Federal programs also have funds to offer, such as the Department of Energy and the Department of Labor and Industry.

(Jennifer Perez Cole) Is there a lack of need for the resource directory, since other agencies may already have resource directories?

(Richard Sangrey) This idea has been revisited many times in his experience, but nothing ever gets done. The Commission agrees that a funding resource directory will make access to state resources for tribes easier and we should do this project because the tribes have made that [funding access] a priority.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Economic Development Conference/ Native Nations Building**

(Emmie Davis Bird) STEDC members have talked about putting on an economic

development conference that would help facilitate the governor's goals of bringing economic development to Indian Country. We should consider doing this since Max Baucus did it in 2000, 2001. We could possibly invite Native Nations Building and the Harvard Project folks.

***Statutorily, the Governor has to put on a Tribal Leaders Summit. The Governor's Office of Economic Development possibly has money that they can ante up that can be combined with STEDC to bring in Native Nations Building. Have other tribes' participated in the Native Nations Building curriculum?*** (Jennifer Perez Cole) **Answer:** Shawn Real Bid was sent down to speak to Tucson. Native Nations Building pays for tribal leaders to go down to AZ and speak on their presentations. They're willing to do in depth analysis of individual tribes resources. However, if tribes have this training imposed on them, especially from the state, they might get territorial. Native Nation Building has to tread lightly otherwise, they might offend tribes and their leadership. Some may not attend even if the Governor does help sponsor.

(Emmie Davis-Bird) Request this item be put on the next meeting agenda for consideration of something for next fall. The State-Tribal Resource Directory could be unveiled at the same time as the Economic Development Conference. We could invite the Small Business Administration, the Federal Economic Development Agency and a representative from the new administration and present our accomplishments and national level issues.

### **The Beat**

(Jennifer Perez Cole) Interested in revisiting the intent of ***The Beat***, a publication that is a collaborative effort between the STEDC staff and the Office of Indian Affairs staff. There is a great line of communication between the tribes and the state of Montana. The Beat seems like it has become time consuming, redundant and possibly unnecessary. How would the Commission feel if the efforts of the Beat would be towards things that will help tribes? Grants and positions within state tribe would remain, but messages from key people in state government and tribal government could be included to be a communication tool between the tribes and the state government. What would you (Commission members) like to see in The Beat, if at all?

(Joe Durglo) The information just presented from Quinn Ness is great information that could be included in The Beat. Some of the information that can be put together in a synopsis that can be included in the publication such as the Beat. Every issue could feature a different program.

(Emmie Davis Bird) Like(s) The Beat because it tells about every tribe in the state. It's hard to stay on top of what's happening with other tribes. The Beat is printed out and dispersed in the Blackfeet tribal council members' mailboxes. She would also like more in-depth information.

***Since the Tribal Leader's Council sends out news alerts daily, would you be OK with removing the news section in the Beat?*** (Jennifer Perez Cole) **Answer:** (Emmie David Bird) Yes, the communication is critical and we need one unified way to get the information to the tribes. The boards and Commissions make decisions on

behalf of the state everyday and the tribes need to know how decisions will affect them.

***What other things would you like to see?*** (Jennifer Perez Cole) **Answer:** (Shawn Real Bird) Even if you forward an RFP that the tribe would be eligible for, they may not look at it. Could the information be posted in The Beat with a follow-up phone call to elected officials, grants and planning departments, etc to verbally inform them of the funding they may be eligible for?

(Joe Durglo) The Beat is reaching different people than the TLC news alerts. It's more accessible and friendly. Even though it seems like duplication, they're reaching different audiences.

(Jennifer Perez Cole) They probably are from different audiences, but a modification to the content and format of The Beat is a better use of resources of our position and provides access to communicate opportunities to the tribes in a unified manner.

***If The Beat is published daily, that's very time-consuming. Could The Beat be weekly and in collaboration with the Governor's office?*** (L. 'Bum' Stiffarm) The posting of schedules and meetings are also important to the tribes. **Answer:** (Jennifer Perez Cole) Calendars can be sent to the tribes and vice versa to the state agencies. Let's revisit this item at the next meeting.

### **Taxation FYI**

Shawn Real Bird informed the Commission that Del Laverdure (Crow Legal Counsel) is on a committee with Max Baucus to clarify issues regarding taxation on Indian tribes and on individuals and to eliminate gray areas. Most likely there will be a bill submitted to the state of Montana Legislature for consideration.

## **ADJOURN**

***Richard Sangrey Made a motion to adjourn at 3:03 pm. Seconded by Jennifer Perez Cole. Unanimous.***